

THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

ROBERT H. MILLER,

"Willing to Praise but not Afraid to Blame."

PROPRIETOR.

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THE REPORTED BATTLE.

The Peayune, of the 3d says, of the rumored battle: Some feeling has been excited in the city by the reports which have reached here from Tampico, that an action had been fought near Saltillo, between the forces of General Taylor and Santa Anna. The rumor obtained currency, and even credence at Tampico, but is no doubt unfounded. We published yesterday a letter dated the 8th ult., from Saltillo, which was written about the time the action is supposed to have taken place, or a little after. That made no mention of a battle. We have since seen a letter of the 16th ultimo, from Camargo, written by a very intelligent officer of the army. It makes no mention of such an action, nor of the march of Santa Anna upon Saltillo.

From all the lights before us we are decidedly of opinion, not only that Santa Anna has not attacked Genl Taylor, but that Genl Taylor will be the first of the two to commence active hostilities. We do not despair of hearing of a general action in that direction. It would be too soon to anticipate it for several weeks, we fear, but the sooner the better; we have no doubt as to the issue. Preparations are going forward with activity in that quarter, as well as at Tampico, and the months of March and April promise to be eventful ones in the history of the war. There are more laurels yet to be won by "Old Rough and Ready."

It is supposed that about fifty persons have recently perished on the route to Santa Fe, from starvation and exposure. They were principally persons who had gone out in the employment of government as teamsters. Such are some of the cruel incidents of war.

We learn from the Floridian that a requisition has been made from the War Department upon Governor Moseley for a company of ninety men to garrison the forts at Pensacola. The company is wanted immediately, as the forts near Pensacola are not at present manned.

The Baltimore American, of the 1st inst., says: we are happy to be able to announce to our readers that the bill making provision for the redemption of the payment of the interest on the public debt of the State of Maryland, passed the House of Delegates, on Saturday, by a vote of 42 yeas to 33 nays. There is, we believe, no doubt of the passage of the bill by the Senate. Most heartily do we congratulate the people of the State of Maryland on this act, which relieves them from the disgrace under which they have so long labored.

CONGRESS.—We have given elsewhere the electric report of the proceedings of Congress up to the last hour of the session, but, in some respects, this is remarkably unsatisfactory. According to our plain understanding of the matter, the proposition of the House to create the office of General-in-Chief was rejected by the Senate, in all its phases, and finally the House abandoned this point—intended for the special benefit of Col. Benton—rather than risk the loss of the bill altogether. In this shape, a law was passed creating certain general officers for the ten regiments of volunteers, and of which Col. Benton is to be one of the Major Generals. He is in a subordinate position to Scott, Taylor, Patterson and Butler, but it is possible that the President may invest him with diplomatic powers. Col. Cummings, who once had a duel with Senator McDuffie, which, in its progress, excited the laughter of the country, is the other Major General.

From the Columbian Magazine. ADVERTISEMENT OF A LOST DAY.

BY MRS. LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY.

Lost! lost! lost!

A gem of countless price,
Cut from the living rock,
And graven in Paradise.
Set round with three times eight
Large diamonds, clear and bright
And each with sixty smaller ones,
All changeable as the light.

Lost—where the thoughtless throng
In fashion's mazes wind,
Where thrilleth folly's song,
Leaving a sting behind,
Yet to my hand 'twas given
A golden harp to buy,
Such as the white-robed choir attune
To deathless minstrelsy.

Lost! lost! lost!
I feel all search is vain;
That gem of countless cost
Can ne'er be mine again;
I offer no reward,
For till these heart-string sever,
I know that heaven-trusted gift
Is left away for ever.

But when the sea and land
Like burning scroll have fled,
I'll see it in His hand
Who judgeth quick and dead,
And when of scathe and loss
That man can ne'er repair,
The dread inquiry meets my soul,
What shall it answer there.

REMARKS OF Mr. ROLLINS, OF BOONE. [CONCLUDED.]

In saying there were those whose minds were disordered, whose intellects were unbalanced, and who deserve rather the sympathy and protection of society, than its vengeance and its punishment. They may be found in cold and desolate huts, beyond the gaze of man, dying, as it were, by inches without an effort being made to call them back to light and life—or, perhaps, it may be, that under the benevolent provisions of our Statute, many of these unhappy beings may be let out, from year to year by our county courts to the lowest bidder, falling, and not unfrequently, into the hands of those who make calculations in advance for what they can be kept, who estimate the profit and the loss, and enter into the speculation accordingly! Sir, this picture is not over-wrought. Facts like these have existed in other States; they exist here, and they will continue to exist "ex necessitate," until, by your interposition, some place is provided for the reception—the comfort and the safe-keeping of this large class of unfortunate persons.

Sir, for the purpose of corroborating what he had said, Mr. R. asked to be indulged in reading one or two extracts, from a report made by a committee, appointed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, a few years since to make examination into the condition of the insane poor of that State. Two extracts only are taken from many of similar import embraced by the Report. Mr. R. read:

"In another Prison there were five Lunatics. Two, a man and woman, each over 70 years of age, occupied the same apartment of an upper story. The female was lying upon a heap of straw, under a broken window, through which a severe snow-storm was beating upon her, and lay upon the straw, around her withered body, which was partly covered with a few filthy and tattered garments. The man had been in that room twenty-one years. And of another Lunatic apartment in the same Prison, it is said that it was warmed by no fire, and that the door had not been opened for eighteen months—the imprisoned maniac receiving his food through a small orifice."

And, again, from the same report:—"A woman was found in the cellar of a Prison, in an apartment six feet by eight, and the only place for admission of light and air, by day or night, was six inches by four; and here she had lived seventeen years, or more than half a generation. We need not add she was a raving maniac."

Mr. R. also, asked leave to read a single extract from the pamphlet of Judge Wells, to which he had referred:

"We have no means of ascertaining their precise condition in this State; no examination has been made by any public authority, nor have I heard of any examination or inquiry in any part of the State, made either by any individual or society. Having no means of improving their condition, I have avoided seeing them—a few cases I could not avoid—among them was a young man who was confined winter and summer in a log pen, without fire and without light. I spent one night in the winter near him—he howled and cried the whole night without intermission, and must certainly have nearly perished with cold. I shall never forget his cries and lamentations. Another case was a girl of fifteen or sixteen years of age. She was kept also in a pen, was entirely naked, (for her clothes were torn off as fast as they could be put on her,) and shockingly filthy. Many similar cases I have heard of."

These are the facts, sir, and this the evidence upon which they are based. It is enough to move a heart of adamant. Let us not not talk about constitutional scruples as preventing us from receiving the money mentioned in the Bill, if we desire to save our credit. Sir, it may not be improper to refer to another single instance, where the man died a raving maniac, and who he had often heard it said, might have been reclaimed, had he been taken at an early stage of his madness to just such an Asylum as is contemplated by this Bill.

A man, sir, who presided over the deliberations of the Convention, that formed your State Constitution, and who was mainly instrumental in giving shape and form to that instrument; a man remarkable for his honesty and integrity; a man of the most gifted powers of mind, and whose eloquent voice had chained the attention of thousands; who had been an ornament to your bench, your bar, and the Senate-chamber of the Union. He died not

"Unwept, unfulfilled, and unremembered," but surrounded by strangers, (beyond the sympathy of his kindred,) who, though willing, were unable, from his utter desperation, to make him either comfortable, or to alleviate his sufferings. This man might have been reclaimed to society, in such an establishment as the one he advocated; and when it was known that all men were subject to the same terrible visitation, that the case alluded to might be that of any one who heard him to-morrow, what another argument was wanting, to insure a unanimous vote on the passage of this Bill.

Mr. R. said he had stated that the probable number of insane persons in the State at this time amounted to about eleven hundred. Suppose, however, that this was an over-estimate; that there were not more than eight or nine hundred; it was still the imperative duty of the State, to take care of these, as if there were double the number. And even though all these had means, or friends, able and willing, to provide for them, it did not relieve the State from her just responsibility. The truth is, it is impossible to take care of a deranged man in a private family, as it should be done. It required a degree of patience which few possessed, and a degree of attention which few could bestow, though prompted by the tenderest ties of relationship. It was only in public institutions where persons were employed to discharge these duties, and who were generally persons of great benevolence of character, and where the buildings, and all the apartments were designed with a view to their adaptation to particular purposes; that these things could be done aright. And wherever the Lunatic had means himself the bill contemplates that for the care and attention bestowed upon him, there should be made a reasonable charge. Or whenever there were others, bearing such relation to him as to warrant expectation of payment, it would be required. And thus for one half, or two-thirds of the whole number, the State would be put to no further expense; than merely to erect a building for their safe keeping. Most of those who would be able to pay their way at home, had not the means to be carried to institutions abroad; and were now remaining in many instances, with the family to which they belonged, miserable themselves, and rendering all about them miserable also. And, although the Bill was designed to make provisions for all insane persons in the State, yet, it was mainly intended for the benefit of those who were unable to help themselves, a class of persons who had been described as the most miserable and unfortunate of the human race, "without means without friends, and without reason."

These were the persons, whose condition was addressing itself, especially, to our sympathies as men, and our liberality as Legislators; and this Bill was a proper response to this demand upon us. We could not do less, we ought to do more. Sir, poverty, and misery, and wretchedness, wherever met, have many claims upon us, according to every law, human and Divine. But, if we turn a deaf ear to the poor alone, they may still find means of enjoyment, and make themselves comparatively happy; if we pass by the blind, they have their reason left, and can look forward "with hope to the hour, when they shall respond from their sorrows on the bosom of the earth, their mother." If no compassion is awakened in our bosoms, for the deaf and the dumb, they can yet look abroad upon the Universe, and enjoy the beauties of Earth and the glories of heaven; a thousand objects in nature, are constantly producing on their minds delightful impressions; but to him whose "reason is dethroned," there is not a "joy that earth can give," which he can either feel or appreciate! The sun rises and sets, but his existence continues a long night of gloom and sorrow. Spring, and summer, and autumn, and winter, return again and again bringing along in their train a thousand delightful associations, but to him without reason, that lofty attribute, which distinguishes man above the lower orders of creation, the whole world is one deep solitude a trackless barren waste. Sir, (said Mr. R.) it was to help those who were unable to help themselves, that the Saviour descended from Heaven to Earth, and opened up to all the everlasting fountains of his Grace and Love. Let us come to the rescue. Let us, as far as our power lies,

"Minister to the mind diseased;
Pluck from the memory the rooted sorrow;
Raze out the written troubles of the brain,
And, with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuffed bosom, of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart."

But, the great argument after all, (said Mr. R.) in favor of the passage of this Bill was not so much to provide for the mere physical wants of the insane, as it was to restore reason to its throne. Formerly, the opinion prevailed that insanity was an incurable disease, malady of the mind. Hence, we read of the Mad houses in England and elsewhere, erected rather for the security of those who were the inmates, than with any hope of restoring them to reason. Moral, or Medical treatment, was almost entirely overlooked; and all the institutions erected for safe-keeping of the insane, as might have been expected, were the abodes of misery and destitution. Since, however, the commencement of the present century, the public mind, he said, had undergone an entire revolution on this subject. In the present advanced state of Medical science, it had paractically demonstrated, that diseases of the mind, under skillful and proper treatment, were just as manageable as diseases of the body; that where insanity had not been confirmed by many years standing, there is a

*Mr. R. was understood to allude to the late Hon. David Barton.

moral certainty that it may be removed. It is not by pursuing the same course with the patient as was formerly taken; it is not by placing him within the walls of a prison, or a dungeon, or even in a madhouse,—not by treating him with severity and cruelty, abridging his liberty, fettering his limbs, or confining him by locks and bars. No, sir, it is by no such means as these; but it is by treating him as you would treat your friend, kindly and affectionately, providing for him a comfortable and happy home, and making every thing around him agreeable to his senses supplying his wants, promoting his comfort, and restraining his liberty only so far as the circumstances of the particular case demanded, and applying such treatment as the laws of mind and the practice of Medical jurisprudence sanction and point out. It is by these means that hundreds and thousands have been restored to reason and to health; and with each successive year additional improvements and discoveries, as to the correct treatment of such cases are made.—It is now ascertained, that in those Asylums best conducted there are, at least, ninety in every hundred of recent cases cured; and in some instances as high as ninety-five, and more. In confirmation of this statement, Mr. R. asked to read a very short extract from the last report of the Superintendent of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, dated in December, 1846.

"The Institution went into operation in the month of November, 1838. Since that time there have been in it 866 patients; 461 males, and 405 females; 247 pay patients, 649 supported by the State; 358 have been discharged cured, 92 have died; 420 were recent cases, (of less than a year's duration, when the patient was received,) 446 were old cases, (of more than a year's duration.) Of the recent cases discharged, 90, 59-100 per cent. (or 289) were cured—of the old cases 27 per cent. (or 60.) In addition to this, a great number of those incurable have been much improved in their condition."

This extract proves, also that even among cases of long standing, and which were the most obstinate, some have been cured, others greatly improved. And here he would add another argument, in answer to the objections urged against this Bill on the score of expense. It must be remembered that these Lunatics, are at last to be supported by the people of the State, either privately, or by the county courts, so long as the State makes no appropriate provision for them.—The average length of time in effecting a cure, where the case is recent, is about one year; and the estimated expense for each patient is about one hundred dollars a year. Take, then one hundred patients, who, for one year, under this Bill, will cost the State ten thousand dollars, and out of which number ninety are cured. But, suppose they are permitted to remain as they now are treated with no reference whatever to their restoration, and suppose you average their lives at ten years each, (which is far below the usual estimate,) if you contrast the expense of maintaining them, either by their friends, or the different counties, with that sum it would probably cost the State under this Bill, and a balance in favor of the latter is found of at least eighty thousand dollars, for keeping the ninety persons a period of ten years. This is a low estimate compared with facts which now exist. This, too, has reference only to the mere matter of dollars and cents. Look to the productive industry of these persons after they are restored to health and reason; look to the happy moral influence which they exert in all the departments of life; to the joy and satisfaction afforded by the return of a lost father, mother, brother, or sister, to the family circle—to the happiness of kindred and friends; blessings which cannot be purchased with money, and in comparison to which the whole Universe of gold sinks into utter insignificance.—Look to these things, and you may form some faint idea of the good which will result from the passage of this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, said Mr. R., there is implanted in the bosom of every man a desire to win a name that will live and be remembered after he has passed from this theatre of action. This is a sentiment common to human nature; and so powerfully has it influenced some that History abounds with single instances of men, who even preferred an immortality of infamy, rather than that the grave should close over them in utter forgetfulness. It was this feeling which prompted the incendiary to apply the torch to the splendid Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, one of the seven wonders of the world, and the name of Enarostratus still lives. It is this sentiment which prompts you to aspire to the highest offices in the gift of a free people—it is this feeling which prompts the Poet to sing, the Hero to conquer and the Warrior to die. But it should only be encouraged, when founded on a disposition to do good; in this, at least, its excellence consists. And for his own part, he would rather have the reputation of H. L. Dix, that excellent woman, who had been on an errand of benevolence to this city, and who had presented a handsome Library to the Convicts in our State Prison, and who even now, at this inclement season, is travelling from State to State, from Asylum to Asylum, prison-house to prison-house, and like an Angel of mercy, pouring the oil of comfort into the hearts of the distressed and unfortunate; and with a kindness peculiar to her sex, spending her whole time in endeavoring to alleviate their sufferings, and to improve their physical and moral condition.—Yes he would rather have the reputation of this woman, than that of the proudest conqueror, of Bonaparte himself in the zenith of his power and his glory, who wrote his name in blood, and built up a splendid fame on the crushed and withered hopes and happiness of thousands,—on the Crowns and Kingdoms which he had desecrated and overthrown, and the "bleached bones of millions whom he had slaughtered." Let us, sir, pass this Bill, and, though, late, discharge a debt which we owe as friends of humanity to the afflicted of our race. Let us, as the Representatives of a generous and charitable constituency, carry out the work which we have so nobly begun. And, believe me, sir, they will rejoice. This will be regarded by them as the redeeming act of the session; and though we may "leave undone things which we should have done," matters of vital interest and importance to them, they will nevertheless, be satisfied, and our return to them, will

receive us with an approving smile, and the cheering commendation "Well done good and faithful servant." And the poor Lunatic himself will rejoice, as he comes bounding and laughing from the beautiful Palace which you have erected for his comfort, restored to health and reason, to his family, kindred and friends, prepared to assume again his lost station in society, and to shed a happy moral influence upon all around him. Make this appropriation for building the Asylum contemplated, and it will ever continue a source of consolation to each of us, and hereafter should we meet one of those children of sorrow

"With gallant barque of reason wrecked," it will be delightful and gratifying to us to know that we have done all within our power to remove their misfortunes; and with becoming confidence we can feel, that, if in the vicissitudes to human life, we should ever be overtaken by a similar misfortune, that the same sympathy and protection would be extended to us, which we had extended to others. As has been well said, "It is the pauper Lunatic of your State, in utter destitution, who knocks to-day at the door of this Hall, and sues for pity. Behold him there with his rayless eye,—his irregular motion, his ragged vestments; himself a living walking sepulchre, in which his mind is entombed, as in the solitude of the grave. He tells you he has none to provide for him, none to pity him; and in tones of supplication, he asks the State, his mother to open her arms and take her outcast child to her bosom."

CONGRESS.

Washington, March 3d.
In the Senate, the Oregon Territorial Bill was laid on the table, after some debate.
The river and harbor bill was adopted.
The resolution restoring to Mr. Ritchie his privileges upon the floor of the Senate, was laid on the table.

The Senate then went into Executive session, after which a recess was taken.
House.—The House refused to take up the bills for the relief of Ireland; and the sending of the ships of war Macedonian and Jamestown with food for the suffering Irish.

The Senate amendments to the Naval Pension bill were agreed to.
The House then resolved itself into committee of the whole, on the Senate amendments to the 3 million bill. The committee rose after debate and reported the bill with the proviso offered by Mr. Wilmot.

The vote being taken, the proviso was rejected—yeas 97, nays 102.
The Senate's amendments were then concurred in, and the bill finally passed by a vote of yeas 115, nays 82. The bill now only requires the President's signature to become a law.

The House then refused to concur in the Senate's amendment striking out from the supplemental Army Bill the provision for the appointment of a General-in-Chief.

The Amending Sub-Treasury Act was then taken up. Various amendments were offered and rejected—among them one for the repeal of the act of the last session. The House then took a recess.

Senate.—The Senate refused to concur in the report of the Conference Committee recommending the adoption of the House provision to the supplemental Army bill: for the appointment of a General-in-Chief of the forces in Mexico.

The Committee of Conference then adjourned their meetings.

The Civil and Diplomatic bill was then reported.

House.—The bill amending the Treasury act of last session was carried.

Also, an act to amend an act for providing for additional forces, and the refunding of expenses incurred by the States in equipping volunteers before mustered into service.

The joint resolution despatching the Macedonian and Jamestown to Ireland, with supplies, was then passed.

The bill for constructing four steamers to be employed in the transportation of the mail between New York and Liverpool was passed.

A resolution of thanks to the Speaker was unanimously adopted.

11 P. M.—Neither House has adjourned.

LATER.—The Senate refused to suspend the rules to receive the bill amending the Sub-Treasury act, from the House.

The new conference committee reported back the supplemental military bill, omitting the provisions for the appointment of the General-in-Chief.

In Executive session, the Hon. Charles J. Ingersoll, of Pennsylvania, was nominated Minister to France.

Both Houses passed the bill for the construction of four new steamers, to carry with twelve steamers offered by private enterprise, the mails between New York, New Orleans, Liverpool, Holland, Chagres and Oregon.

Closing Proceedings.

Washington, 1 1/2 A. M., March 4.
Both Houses adjourned at 1 o'clock. The Senate rejected the nomination of Charles J. Ingersoll as Minister to France. The President then nominated Richard Rush, and the nomination was confirmed.

Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, and Col. Cummings, of Georgia, were then nominated Major Generals, and confirmed. Messrs Cadwallader, of Pennsylvania, Hopping, of New York, and Franklin H. Pearce of New Hampshire, were then nominated Brigadier Generals, and confirmed.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND AGGRAVATING FROM WASHINGTON.—Mrs. Caudle's Dream Come true!—We stop the press to announce that Mrs. Caudle's frightful dream, of which that lady makes mention in her Lecture of this date, has been suddenly and unexpectedly realized! Yes—that suffering and venerated woman has been expelled from the Senate Chamber, driven forth with words of contumely and many stripes! Mr. Caudle expects to "see sights" at the old lady's next Lecture. He seems terribly calm; but Yankee Deodile is very sorry that there are no signs of resignation upon which he can congratulate the country.—Yankee Deodile.